Mr. CLARKE'S
SERMON,
AT THE
INTERMENT
OF THE
Rev. Dr. COOPER.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A

SERMON

DELIVERED

AT THE

CHURCH in BRATTLE-STREET,

JANUARY 2, 1784.

AT THE

INTERMENT

OF THE

Rev. SAMUEL COOPER, D.D.

WHO EXPIRED, *December* 29, 1783.

BY

JOHN CLARKE, A. M.

Junior Pastor of the First Church *in* BOSTON.

And Samuel died; and all the Israelites——

SAMUEL XXV. 1.

BOSTON:

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M,DCC,LXXXIV.

AT a Meeting of the CHURCH and CONGREGATION in *Brattle-Street*, JANUARY 4th, 1784.

VOTED,—That the Deacons be a Committee to wait on the Rev. Mr. CLARKE, with the thanks of this Society, for his ſermon delivered at the *funeral* of the Rev. Dr. COOPER; and deſire a copy for the preſs.

Per Order,

DANIEL BELL, *Clerk.*

A SERMON, &c.

ACTS XX. 38.

Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more.

THERE is not, my respected hearers, a more tender and affecting scene, than the *last solemn interview* of the apostle with the church of *Ephesus*. Knowing that he was appointed to bonds and afflictions; and that those, among whom he had been preaching the kingdom of God, would *see him no more*, —he could not pursue his way to *Jeru-*

salem.

Jalem, till he had firſt dropped a parting tear; and bid his very dear and valued friends a *final adieu*. From * *Miletus* therefore, he ſent for the *Elders* of that church: And, with a *tenderneſs* peculiarly affecting, he reminds them of the zeal and fidelity with which he had diſcharged his duty as a *miniſter of Jeſus Chriſt*. He had *kept back nothing that was profitable to them*: He had *taught them in public, and in private*. The whole *counſel of God* he had ſolemnly declared. And, for *the ſpace of three years, he had ceaſed not to warn every one, night and day, with tears*. In proof of this, he appeals to thoſe who were acquainted with him from his firſt arrival at *Aſia*; *and knew after what manner he had been with them at all ſeaſons*.

Having done that juſtice to his own character, which he was conſcious it deſerved,—he proceeds to his future expectations

* Ver. 17.

expectations †. *And now behold*, says he, *I go bound in the ſpirit unto Jeruſalem, not knowing the things that ſhall befall me there: Save that the Holy Ghoſt witneſſeth, in every city, that bonds and afflictions abide me. But none of theſe things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myſelf, ſo that I might finiſh my courſe with joy, and the miniſtry which I have received of the Lord Jeſus.* This tender and affectionate ſpeech, joined to the gloomy predictions with which it was interſperſed, and the liberal ſentiments with which it concluded, melted them into tears. *They all wept ſore. They fell on Paul's neck, and kiſſed him.* Sorrowing much on *his* account, becauſe bonds and afflictions awaited him; but more on *their own*, becauſe *they ſhould ſee his face no more.*

The behaviour of the *Epheſian Elders* on this tender occaſion, does no leſs honour to their *feelings* as *men*, than their profeſſion

† Ver. 22.

profeſſion as *chriſtians*. As fellow-creatures with the excellent apoſtle, they could not be unmoved at his approaching ſufferings. As fellow-chriſtians, it had been ingrateful to refuſe a tear. *Religion*, bleſſed be God, does not extinguiſh the ſocial feelings: It refines and improves them. It quickens our ſenſibility; points out the proper objects of our affection; and when they are torn from us, it teaches us to ſorrow, though *not as thoſe who are without hope*. The grief therefore, diſcovered by the apoſtle's friends, does honor to *their* hearts. And the lively ſorrow, which marks every countenance, and pierces every boſom in this aſſembly, is no leſs becoming *our* religious character!

A *faithful* miniſter of Jeſus Chriſt, is deſervedly eſteemed by the people of his charge. Such was the apoſtle *Paul* to the chriſtians of *Epheſus*. And ſuch are all thoſe who imbibe his ſpirit; and are

actuated

actuated by his noble and diſintereſted motives. Under God, *he* had been the inſtrument of their converſion. He had built them up in the moſt holy faith of the goſpel. And he had laboured, night and day, to form them to that character, and to qualify them for that felicity, which is the glorious object of the chriſtian diſpenſation. In proſecution of this work, he had diſcovered a great and generous mind. Superior to the motives which actuate other perſons, he had ſtudied merely *their* good. And he was undeterred from the purſuit, though it had expoſed him to many temptations; and coſt him many tears.

THIS generous and ardent zeal of the apoſtle *they* repaid with the tendereſt affection. Senſible of his labours of love, and all he had done, and ſuffered for the church, they beheld him with eyes of gratitude; and openly acknowledged the obligation. *Oppreſſed*, as it

were, with the memory of his kindneſs, they *wept ſore*. They *fell on his neck*: They embraced him: They gave a looſe to all thoſe *tender feelings*, which had been excited by his *pathetic diſcourſe*.

At his diſtreſſing apprehenſions from wicked and unreaſonable men, they were moſt painfully affected. Like the maſter he ſerved, they ſaw *him deſpiſed and rejected of men*. They beheld him cited before unjuſt tribunals; and condemned without cauſe. And, to complete the horrour of the ſcene, imagination painted him expiring under the cruel hand of perſecution; and ſealing the truth of chriſtianity with his blood. And though *he* appeared unmoved at theſe approaching ſufferings, *they* beheld them with extreme anguiſh. The arrow pointed at the breaſt of the apoſtle, already pierced *them* with many ſorrows.

But what more deeply wounded their

hearts,

hearts, was the mournful conſideration, that *they ſhould ſee his face no more.* This was the *laſt* interview they ſhould ever have with their moſt valued friend. *No more* ſhould they hear his heavenly inſtructions: *No more* ſhould they hang upon his lips; admire his gracious words; or be tranſported with his divine eloquence! His *example* alſo, which had been ſo bright and dazzling, they were to contemplate *no more.* The apoſtle was going from them,—going to bonds and afflictions, to ſufferings, and to death. He would therefore, take a *final* leave of them, in *this* world, hoping for an *eternal* intercourſe in the *world to come!*

The tears, which were ſhed on this occaſion, were a tribute due to the memory of the apoſtle. He deſerved them all of his chriſtian friends. No tokens of regard, which *they* could pay, could poſſibly exceed the merits of their

benefactor. For which reaſon, we ſhould juſtly impeach their gratitude had they not melted at his diſcourſe: And their whole chriſtian character, had they not ſorrowed moſt of all, becauſe they were *to ſee his face no more.* Theſe words, when applied to a common friend, call up the moſt gloomy ideas; but how *emphatically* moving, when they refer to a generous benefactor, or any one for whom we entertain an ardent affection!

But, from the ſame principle we applaud the ſenſibility, and the undiſſembled ſorrow of theſe *Epheſians*, *we* muſt enter into *their* feelings; and imitate *their* conduct, when *the faithful fail from among the children of men.* To *learning*, *patriotiſm* and *piety*, we can not refuſe the tribute of a tear. And when all theſe unite in the perſon of a chriſtian miniſter, his *very duſt* will be precious to us, and we ſhall weep, with unaffected ſorrow, over his *cold remains.*

It would indeed, be unpardonable arrogance, to pretend that any of the followers of this divine apoſtle could have *his* claim to the affections of their flock. However, there have been perſons, in the miniſterial profeſſion who were *burning and ſhining lights* :—who, to the *learning* of the *ſcholar*, united the *virtues* of the *patriot* ; and to the *eaſy familiarity* of the *companion*, the *ſerioufneſs* and *devotion* of a *chriſtian*. In the church of Chriſt, there have been ſervants who were an honour to their order. Well inſtructed in the truths of religion, they have *kept back nothing which was profitable* to their charge. Generouſly concerned for the welfare of their flock, they have diſplayed the grace of the goſpel with a moſt *captivating eloquence* ; and enforced the precepts of it by a *ſplendid example*. In one word, there have been perſons conſpicuous, not only for the *love of God*, but the *love of their country* ;—diſtinguiſhed by their *patriotic* as well as their

religious

religious virtues; and no leſs *beneficial* to *ſociety*, than *ornamental* to the *church of Chriſt*! And when ſuch excellent characters are taken from us, ſhall we not feel, and lament the loſs? Shall we not dreſs their tomb with freſh laurels? With faithful epitaphs ſhall we not engrave their ſtone? And, in our boſoms, cheriſh the everlaſting remembrance of their virtues? Could lateſt time efface their image from our hearts, we ſhould ill deſerve the bleſſings we derive from them.

The death of an amiable, and diſtinguiſhed ſervant of Jeſus Chriſt is a loſs, which every good mind will ſincerely lament. It is a loſs to his family and connexions,—a loſs to the people of his charge,—a loſs to the learned world,—his brethen of the profeſſion,—the Commonwealth,—and, I will add, it is a loſs to mankind! The firſt have peculiar reaſon to mourn, when the *huſband*, the *parent*, and the *friend* is taken from them.

And

And we ſhould juſtly charge them with inſenſibility, did they not *melt* at the reflection,—that *they ſhall ſee his face no more.* How could they reſtrain the flowing tear, when they behold thoſe eyes cloſed in night, which once beamed with tenderneſs and love;—that tongue locked in ſilence, on which ever dwelt the law of kindneſs;—and that viſage defromed by death, which always wore the ſmiles of friendſhip! Surely, no human heart could be unſubdued by ſuch a ſpectacle.

Next to his more immediate connexions, the *people of his charge* will mourn his death. *They* have loſt an *able miniſter*, and an *affectionate friend.* How often have they been warmed by his devotion; and inſtructed by his diſcourſe? How often have they liſtened to the gracious words, which proceeded from his lips? And, with what pious rapture have they accompained him to the throne of Almighty God? When ſick, how have

they

they been ſupported by his chriſtian admonitions? When oppreſſed with ſorrow, how have they been relieved by his tender application of the promiſes, and conſolations of the goſpel? When clouds and darkneſs have over-ſhadowed their minds, how have they been enlightened by his religious converſation? And when ready to deſpair, how have they been revived by his elevated deſcriptions of the grace of God, and the merits of a Redeemer! Such reflections will crowd upon the minds of a grateful people, when their paſtor is taken from them. They will mourn for the loſs ſuſtained by his particular friends; but moſt of all on their *own account*, becauſe they ſhall *ſee his face*; *hear his voice*; and *liſten* to his *inſtructions no more!*

AGAIN—the death of ſuch a perſon, will prove an unſpeakable loſs to the *learned* world. By his accurate taſte, the brilliancy of his imagination, and the

clearneſs

clearneſs of his judgment, he adorned and enriched the republic of letters. Others therefore, will lament his death, beſides thoſe who were bound to him by the ties of friendſhip or religion.

His *brethren in the miniſtry*, will never forget the hour, which conſigned their dear and valued friend to the grave. The ſolemn ſound of his funeral bell will dwell upon their ear. And his much-loved image will preſent itſelf in the ſilent hour of night; or called up by fancy, will meet their waking eyes, in every place ſacred to retirement, or religious contemplation. There will they call to mind his many virtues. There will they review the pleaſing ſcenes in which *he* partook; and the happy intercourſe they mutually enjoyed. And often will they repair to the ſacred ſhrine, which contains his *venerable duſt*. The memory of his virtues will create a ſigh; while their boſoms will be wrung

with the ſad reflection,—they ſhall embrace their *friend*, and their *brother no more!*

Finally,—ſuch a diſtinguiſhed character, when cut off in the midſt of his uſefulneſs, will be an irreparable loſs to ſociety. The deadly arrow, which deſtroys *him*, will deeply wound the boſom of his country. *She* will feel, in a lively manner, the afflictive diſpenſation of divine providence: And will mourn over him as an *only child*. The man, who to the extenſive benevolence of a chriſtian, unites a generous regard to that ſociety of which *he* is a member, ought to be had in everlaſting honour. His prayers, which have been *gratefully* received by the court of Heaven, ought not to be *ingratefully* overlooked by his fellow-men. *They* ſhould remember *how they have ſeen and heard*, ſhould call to mind his noble exertions in *their* behalf; and how uniformly and zealouſly he has

always

always ſtudied the *public good*. This part of his character ſhould be the object of their frequent contemplation. Then would they be deeply impreſſed with the loſs they had ſuſtained; and they would bleſs his memory as a *patriot*, while they revered his name as a *miniſter* and a *chriſtian*.

THUS have I deſcribed the perſon, who, as a *domeſtic friend*, a *ſcholar*, a *member* of *ſociety*, but more eſpecially, a *miniſter* of *religion*, deſerves to be honoured when alive; and when dead, to be univerſally lamented. And did ſuch a character never exiſt but in imagination? Did *you* never ſee the *original* of that portrait, I have thus imperfectly drawn? The *grief* which clouds *your* brow, the *ſighs* which rend *your boſoms*;—and the *tears* which fall from *your* eyes, proclaim aloud, that ſuch you eſteemed your *dear and venerable paſtor*, whoſe *remains* are now before you *; but whoſe *face you ſhall ſee*

* The body was carried into the church on this occaſion.

no more! Behold, the *precious duſt* of your moſt honoured friend! Behold, all that now remains of the *ſcholar*, the *patriot*, and the *divine!* VENERABLE SHADE! Why doſt thou reviſit this ſacred habitation? Was it to open our wounds *anew*! Was it to *imbitter* the cup which divine providence has poured out to us? Or was it to impreſs our minds with this mortifying truth—that EVERY MAN, AT HIS BEST ESTATE, IS ALTOGETHER VANITY!

WE mourn with you, chriſtian friends, on this very diſtreſſing occaſion. *You* have loſt a moſt amiable and engaging *miniſter*; *we* a moſt friendly and entertaining *companion*. Some, in this aſſembly, mourn a *husband*, a *parent*, or a *brother* dead: And others are now paying the laſt tribute of reſpect to a *patriot* no more! *We*, who have more lately entered into the miniſterial profeſſion, bewail a *friend*, from whom we expected

the

the greateſt comfort; and whoſe counſel, aſſiſtance, and the pleaſures of whoſe converſation, we promiſed ourſelves for years to come. But vain are all expectations from ſo uncertain a thing as human life. *Our* friend, and *your* paſtor is called to the manſions of the dead; and *we ſhall ſee his face no more!*—

WITHIN theſe walls, ſacred to piety, and the public worſhip of God, you ſhall *no more* hear his voice. *No more* ſhall you catch the flame of his rational and animated devotion. *No more* ſhall your prayers aſcend, clothed with *his* pious *eloquence*, an acceptable tribute to the father of mercies. *No more* ſhall the great truths of religion be ſet forth with *his beauties* of ſtyle; or recommended with his *engaging delivery*. That *voice*, thoſe *powers*, and that *manner*, which once charmed, will charm *no more!*—Wherefore, give a looſe to thoſe tender feelings which his death has excited. There is a

luxury

luxury in religious grief, unknown to vulgar minds. And the greateſt underſtandings will not think it a weakneſs, in faltering accents, or a broken voice, to expreſs their ſorrow.

JUSTLY ſhould I incur the cenſure of his friends;—and greatly ſhould I injure the memory of Dr. COOPER, ſhould I not ſay, he was a *peculiar ornament* to this religious ſociety. His talents as a miniſter were conſpicuous to all; and they have met with univerſal applauſe. *You* know, with what *plainneſs*, and, at the ſame time, with what *elegance*, he diſplayed the grace of the goſpel. *You* know, with what brilliancy of ſtyle he adorned the moral virtues; and how powerfully he recommended them to univerſal practice. When the joys of a better world employed his diſcourſe, can you ever forget the elevated ſtrains in which he deſcribed them? And his *prayers*, ſurely *they* muſt be remembered,

when

when his qualifications for the other duties of his office, and his many ſhining accompliſhments are forgotten! If thoſe, who conſtantly attended upon his miniſtry are not warmed with the love of virtue,—if they are not charmed with the beauty of holineſs,—if they are not tranſported with the grace of the goſpel, muſt they not blame their own inſenſibility? *Remember therefore, how you have ſeen, and heard, and hold faſt, and repent.*

But the place in which I now ſtand, was not the only theatre, on which he appeared with ſuch applauſe: In private, alſo, he diſplayed his talents for the office he ſuſtained. With peculiar facility, could he enter into the feelings of others, and adjuſt his converſation to the particular ſtate of their minds. He could *raiſe the bowed down, and encourage the feeble hearted.* In the houſe of mourning, he could light up joy. He could

could inſpire thoſe, who were approaching the ſhades of death, with chriſtian fortitude. And by expatiating on the mercy of God, and the merits of a Saviour, he could revive thoſe who were ready to deſpair! Thus various and accompliſhed his character, how juſtly are you affected on this occaſion!

However, the people of his charge are not the only perſons who mourn this event. The death of their honourable paſtor is a general calamity. It is ſeverely felt by all our ſocieties: And by *that*, in a particular manner *, which has been ſo long united with this church in a ſtated lecture. It is felt by this *town*, which gloried in him no leſs as a *citizen*, than a *miniſter* of the goſpel. It is felt by the *Univerſity*, to whoſe honour and intereſts he was paſſionately devoted. The governours of that learned ſociety will teſtify, how ardently he laboured to raiſe it

* The firſt Church.

it to ſuperior eminence; and how he encouraged thoſe ſciences, the ſweets of which *he* had ſo early, and ſo liberally taſted. His death will be lamented by this *Commonwealth*; and *moſt ſincerely*, by ſome of the *firſt characters* in it. For with *them* he was intimately connected, and they diſtinguiſhed him by every public token of reſpect.

In one word, his death will be a common loſs to theſe *American States*; for, as a *patriot*, he was no leſs celebrated, than as a *divine*. Well acquainted with the intereſts of his country, he conſtantly and ardently purſued them. But while, as a *ſtates-man*, he diſcerned what would tend to our glory and happineſs, as a *miniſter* of religion, he prayed it might not be *hid from our eyes*. And *you* can tell with what fervour he offered up his ſupplications.

I MIGHT now deſcend to the more *ornamental* parts of his character. I might diſplay him as the familiar friend, and the entertaining companion. I might remind you of his correct and elegant taſte; and that moſt *engaging politeneſs*, which rendered him ſo agreeable in every private circle. But why ſhould I aggravate a wound, which already bleeds too much! Why ſhould I call up the pleaſing image of a perſon, whom *you ſhall ſee no more?* Let me rather ſuggeſt thoſe conſolations, which will enable you to bear your loſs with chriſtian fortitude, and to *ſorrow not as thoſe who are without hope.*

AND behold, *your* * *redeemer liveth; and he ſhall ſtand at the latter day upon the earth.* Yet a little while, and *the* † *Lord ſhall deſcend from Heaven with a ſhout, with*

* Job xix. 25. † I. Theſ. iv. 16.

with the voice of the archangel and the trump of God! And then ſhall the *dead in Chriſt* awake to *immortal felicity* ! That body, which is now ſown in corruption, ſhall be raiſed in incorruption: That which is ſown in diſhonour, ſhall be raiſed in glory: That which is ſown in weakneſs, ſhall be raiſed in power:* And this *natural* ſhall be transformed into a *ſpiritual body! Behold, I ſhew you a myſtery!* We ſhall not always remain under the power of the grave; but, in a moment, ſhall we awake, at the laſt trump; and our bodies ſhall be changed. And† *Jeſus Chriſt ſhall faſhion them like unto his glorious body, according to the working, whereby he is able even to ſubdue all things unto himſelf.* Happy day! when *they who ſleep in Jeſus, ſhall hear his voice and come forth!* When they ſhall be delivered from all the infelicities of this mortal ſtate! When ‡ *they that are wiſe, ſhall ſhine as the brightneſs of the firmament;—and he that hath turned many to righteouſneſs, as the ſtars for ever and ever!* In

* I Cor. xv. 42, &c. † Phil. iii. 21. ‡ Dan. xii. 3.

* *In the multitude of your thoughts within you, may these* proſpects *delight your ſouls.* May they ſupport you at the ſilent tomb, to which you will ſoon repair; and leave the precious duſt of our departed friend. May you realize them at the *holy communion*, on the approaching *Sabbath*. And may they be your joy and conſolation, whenever you call to mind his amiable character; and remember that *you ſhall ſee him no more*.

And now, brethren, we proceed to the laſt tokens of reſpect to theſe remains. Could that voice, which has ſo often delighted this aſſembly, be once more unlocked, I can eaſily conceive, how you would be accoſted by our deceaſed brother. Forgive me, if I preſume to be his voice on this occaſion. Beloved Charge— † *Let not your hearts be troubled, ye believe in God, believe alſo in his Son.* ‡ *If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, becauſe I go to your father*

* Pſal. xciv. 19. † John xiv. 1. ‡ Ver. 28. xx. 17.

*father and my father; to your God and my God. To that God I now * commend you, and to the word of his grace which is able to build you up; and to give you an inheritance among all them that are sanctified. † And now, brethren, a long, a last farewell: Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you!*

* Acts xx. 32. † 2 Cor. xiii. 11.

AMEN.

THE following character of Doctor COOPER, drawn by another hand, is taken from the CONTINENTAL JOURNAL, of January 22, 1784.

DR. COOPER was the second son of that distinguished divine, the late Rev. WILLIAM COOPER, one of the pastors of the church in Brattle-Street: He was born the 28th of March, 1725. While he was passing through the common course of education at a grammar school in this town, and afterwards at the university in Cambridge, he exhibited such marks of a masterly genius as gave his friends the pleasure of anticipating a life eminently useful to his country.

His pious father having designed him for the gospel ministry, was happy to find his son's inclination [illegible]. Divinity was therefore the Doctor's favorite study; and having early felt the impressions of serious religion, the honour of being a minister of the gospel weighed down every consideration of temporal advantages.

He early made his appearance as a preacher, and so acceptable were his first performances, and such the expectations they had raised, that he had scarce attained

attained to the age of twenty years before he received a call from the church and congregation in Brattle-Street, to ſucceed his father who died December 13th, 1743, as colleague with the celebrated Doctor Colman. In this office he was ordained May 25th, 1746, juſt thirty years after the ordination of his father.

The Doctor did not diſappoint the expectations he had raiſed; his reputation increaſed, and he was ſoon one of the moſt univerſally acceptable preachers in the country. Through a courſe of near thirty-nine years public miniſtry, he conducted himſelf with ſuch wiſdom and integrity, prudence and ability, as procured him the like love and eſteem from his venerable colleague, and the people of his charge which his father had enjoyed, and the notice and reſpect of all the clergy in the Commonwealth. Indeed his whole life was worthy the imitation of all who wiſh to live admired, or die lamented.

He early diſcovered a happy talent for compoſition; his ſermons bore the mark of genius and taſte: they were clear and elegant——ſenſible and truly evangelical, and delivered with an energy and pathos which warmed the heart,—in a ſtile which charmed the ear,——and with an eloquence which always gained the attention of his auditory.

In prayer he was greatly diſtinguiſhed;——his thoughts and language were devotional, pertinent and ſcriptural; well adapted to the particular occaſion, and delivered with ſuch humility and reverence, and at the ſame time grateful variety, as could hardly fail of kindling a flame of devotion in the moſt dull and lifeleſs of his fellow-worſhipers. When celebrating the peculiar myſteries of our holy religion——how was he carried even beyond himſelf, with ſuch a flow and fulneſs of expreſſion, as often bore away the intelligent and ſpiritual worſhippers as on angels wings towards heaven!——

About twelve months after his call and before his ordination, a malignant and mortal fever then prevailing, he was introduced by his reverend colleague to the chambers of the ſick, and the beds of the dying. He has often obſerved, it was a happy introduction to the work of the miniſtry—It was one means of eminently qualifying him for that part of paſtoral duty; and is

is univerſally allowed that few, if any, were more judicious and ſucceſsful in their applications and addreſſes to perſons in thoſe circumſtances.

His religious ſentiments were rational and catholic, being drawn from the goſpel of CHRIST; in them he was ever ſteady, and though a friend to the rights of conſcience and a free enquiry, he yet wiſhed to avoid, in his common diſcourſes, thoſe nice and needleſs diſtinctions, which had too often proved detrimental to chriſtian love and union.

It was happy for his country, that his early intention of devoting himſelf to the work of the goſpel miniſtry, or the cares of that important office to which he was ever attentive, did not prevent his compleating his character by an intimate acquaintance with other branches of ſcience beſides divinity, particularly with the claſſicks. Upon their ſparkling field he pleaſingly roved from flower to flower, and finally became one of the moſt finiſhed ſcholars of the preſent day.

He was a friend to learning, and to the univerſity in which he was educated, and was a faithful member of the board of overſeers. After the loſs of Harvard hall, with the library and apparatus, by fire, in 1762, he exerted his extenſive influence in procuring ſubſcriptions to repair that loſs. There having been a vacancy in the corporation in 1767, the Doctor was elected one of that board, and continued a very attentive, firm, and judicious member until his death.

His fame for literary accompliſhments, and his character as a divine, became too great to be limited to his native country; it introduced him to the univerſity of Edinburgh, from whence he was complimented with a diaploma of doctor in divinity.

Dr. COOPER was an active member of the ſociety for propagating the goſpel among the aboriginals of America, the work was pleaſing to his benevolent mind, and he was ever watchful that the pious intentions of the donors in thoſe charities ſhould not be diſappointed.

When his country had aſſerted her right to independence, he was anxious to lay a foundation for the encouragement of uſeful arts, and the growth of the ſciences in this land of civil liberty. In his opinion knowledge, as a handmaid to virtue, was neceſſary to ſupport free governments and promote public happineſs.

happiness. He was therefore one of the foremost in forwarding the plan on foot, in 1780, for establishing an American academy of arts and sciences; and this society, from a sense of his literary merits, elected him their first vice-president.

To his acquaintance with divinity, and the other branches of science, were added a just knowledge of the nature and design of government, and the rights of mankind.—The gospel taught him to wish and promote their happiness, and the shining examples of the first ministers of this Commonwealth in the cause of their country, were ever before his eyes.

He well knew that tyranny opposes itself to religious as well as civil liberty; and being among the first who perceived the injustice and ruinous tendency of those measures of the British court, which at length obliged the Americans to defend their rights with the sword, this Reverend Patriot was among the first who took an early and decided part in the politics of his country.

He did what he could, not only by his prevailing address, his counsels and advice, but by his pen, in conjunction with other distinguished patriots, to alarm the sleepy, animate the timed, support the sufferer, encourage the warrior, and unite the people.

The abilities and steadiness thus manifested in this glorious cause, endeared him to his country, and he was esteemed, consulted and confided in by some of the principal leaders in the opposition.——The success of it lay near his heart, and he regarded as friends all who aided it, whether here or in Europe.

He did much to obtain foreign alliances, and his letters were read with great satisfaction by the ministry of Versailles, whilst men of the most distinguished characters in Europe became his correspondents.

When France made a proffer of her friendship in the most disinterested manner, and became the supporter of our freedom and independence, it was necessary to subdue the prejudices against that nation which Britain had early sown in New-England, as also to conciliate the habits and manners of the two nations—Dr. COOPER appeared as one peculiarly formed by heaven for this happy purpose.

He poſſeſſed an elevation of thought, a delicacy of ſentiment, and quickneſs of apprehenſion, which, united with an eaſineſs of manners, and the moſt engaging addreſs, never failed of gaining the attention and giving pleaſure to the moſt reſpectable circles. Noblemen of the firſt diſtinction in Europe and fame for their literary accompliſhments, having been by the courſe of the late war brought to America, were fond of being introduced to him;——when they had once ſeen him, they coveted an intimate acquaintance.

The great friendſhip ſubſiſting between him, Dr. Franklin and Mr. Adams, was one means of his being known in France; and the gentlemen coming from that kingdom were generally recommended to him by thoſe ambaſſadors.

When the fleets of his Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty have adorned our harbour, he was always the confidential friend of the gentlemen who commanded; and the many officers and ſubjects of that auguſt and beloved Monarch who viſited him, were ever received with an eaſe and cordiality that was pleaſing, and highly endeared him to them.

When the civil conſtitution of this Commonwealth, in which he had ſome ſhare, was formed and approved of by the people, he was, according to the cuſtom of the country, called upon to introduce it with a ſermon: this diſcourſe, with others of his writings, have been printed in ſeveral languages, and are ſome ſpecimens of his ſingular abilities.

The nature of his illneſs, which from the firſt he apprehended would be his laſt, was ſuch as rendered him ſome part of the time incapable of converſation.——He had, however, intervals of recollection: at theſe times he informed his friends that he was perfectly reconciled to whatever Heaven ſhould appoint——willing rather to be abſent from the body and preſent with the Lord; that his hopes and conſolations ſprang from a belief of thoſe evangelical truths which he had preached to others; that he wiſhed not to be detained any longer from that higher ſtate of perfection and happineſs which the goſpel had opened to his view.

He declared his great ſatisfaction in ſeeing his country in peace, and poſſeſſed of freedom and independence; and his hopes, that by their virtue and public ſpirit,

they

they would ſhew the world that they were not unworthy thoſe ineſtimable bleſſings.

With the tendereſt expreſſions of love and kindneſs to his near connections and friends and the dear people of his charge, who have always ſhewn him every mark of their love and eſteem, he cloſed this mortal life, and has, we truſt, entered into the joys of his LORD.

Thus lived and thus died, the great and amiable Doctor COOPER, and his death is a loſs which *learning* and *religion*, *patriotiſm* and *friendſhip*, will long feel and lament.

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